

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION -- CHEESE FROM
AUSTRIA

REF: STATE 235289 (NOTAL), STATE 146435 (NOTAL)

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PETER SUCHMAN OF TREASURY
MET WITH DR. ERICH PULTAR OF AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE ON NOVEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR A WAIVER
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OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON AUSTRIAN CHEESE.

2. AUSTRIA IS IN PROCESS OF REDUCING SUBSIDIES ON EMMENTHALER CHEESE TO 0 ON WHEELS, 7 CENTS ON CUTS (WHICH COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY 85 PERCENT OF AUSTRIAN EXPORTS TO US) AND 10 CENTS ON SLICES BY DECEMBER 1. SUCHMAN TOLD PULTAR THAT IN ORDER FOR US TO GRANT WAIVER, SUBSIDY ON CUTS SHOULD BE REDUCED TO ZERO BY JULY 1, 1976. IF THIS ACCEPTABLE US WOULD WAIVE ANY COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SLICES AND ON AUSTRIAN SOFT CHEESES. PULTAR INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL BUT REQUESTED DEADLINE OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1976. SUCHMAN SAID SEPTEMBER 1 ACCEPTABLE TO TREASURY IF REDUCTION MADE IN TWO STAGES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TREASURY COULD NOT

ACCEPT SEPTEMBER 1 EXTENSION IN WHICH CASE HE ASSURED PULTAR THAT TREASURY WOULD IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY EMBASSY HERE.

3. SUCHMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE TEMPORARY WAIVER WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A FINAL AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATION THAT AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PAYS OR BESTOWS BOUNTIES OR GRANTS ON ITS CHEESE EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THE ADJUSTMENT IN THE EMMENTHALER SUBSIDY PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR PRESENT ACTION, WAIVER AUTHORITY EXPIRES JANUARY 4, 1979.

4. TREASURY WILL PROVIDE LETTER TO AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HERE IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS OUTLINING US UNDERSTANDING. BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, CHEESE PROBLEM APPEARS RESOLVED. KISSINGER

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